

PINK LADY RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

<http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/pinklady/pink-lady-transit-commission>

Meeting - Tuesday August 1, 2017 @ 10:00am

**Sauk County Courthouse West Square 3rd floor Extension meeting
room**

Baraboo, WI

Draft Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Chair Alan Anderson, Vice Chair Virgil Kasper, John Geoghegan, Treas. Dick Whitehurst, Doug Hilber

Not Present: N/A Elmer Ellis,

Others Present: Kim Tollers, WisDOT RHS. Jenny Erickson UWEX, Don Evenson, Bob Ristow.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Anderson. Introduction of visitors and members.

Roll Call: Quorum established.

Certification of open meeting law. Meeting was certified as having met the requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Kasper, seconded by Whitehurst to approve agenda. Carried.

Approval of Draft Minutes April 4, 2017. Moved by Geoghegan, seconded by Hilber to approve April minutes. Carried.

Treasures Report: Balance \$2656.31. Moved by Kasper, seconded by Geoghegan to approve treasures report. Carried.

Chairman's Report: Chair Anderson

Alan reported that he had attended a rail tour of the State owned line from Oregon, Wisconsin to Baraboo. The tour was mostly attended by members of The WRRTC. They looked at line condition and talked about issues facing that line. The tracks from Waunakee to the Merrimac Bridge were in need of tie replacement. There are plans to do a major tie replacement in the next few years. The bridge was talked about and there are plans to replace the worst span this year with the bulk of the rebuild to happen in 2019. Anderson also reported that they saw many trespassers at Devils Lake so the problem continues.

Anderson also reported on the condition of the Sauk rail bridge. One of the piers has shifted significantly and will be removed. The WRRTC is looking at solutions and will be letting out bids later this year.

The current state budget looks like \$12,000,000 for the biennium. Anderson had sent a letter in on behalf of the Pink Lady Commission requesting \$20 million. Many other entities were doing the same.

WSOR report: Ken Lucht reported that they have a grant application into the state to replace 1000 ties per mile plus ballast from Oregon to Baraboo. The replacements will occur when the grant is awarded. Hopefully in 2019. It's an \$11 million project. They are doing rail testing on the line as well. Ken also confirmed that the worst Merrimac span should be replaced this year. The engineering for the bulk of the repairs will be happening next year with replacement to follow. WSOR is working on a transload facility in Madison that will be used by many shippers. Ken also reported that the Spring Green repairs are going well and that bridge should be done about September of this year.

WisDOT update: Kim Tollers

- Kim reported that the 2017 Merrimac repair was a \$500,000 repair. The rest of the repairs will cost around \$14-\$15 million. The state has the money set aside for the repairs.
- There was a brief discussion on the trespass problem at Devils Lake but there was no resolution.
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Old Business:

Economic impact study: Jenny Erickson presented the draft of the economic impact study. The impacts were up as expected. Not all of the shippers gave us all their data so it was felt that the impacts are under reported.

Trespass issue: see above notes.

New Business: NA

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Local Reports:

Baraboo:

-Whitehurst: Reported that business was good and shipping up.

Rock Springs:

-Geoghegan: Grain shipping is busy. In April there were 25 cars a day but it has slowed to 1 train of 25 cars per week. Business is good and shipments were as expected. There were three Ringling brother cars delivered to Mid Continent Museum.

Reedsburg:

- Doug Hilber: Hardwoods is having steady business and shipments were up He wasn't sure but thought that the plastics were shipping more too.

- Doug Rockett: No business to report in Reedsburg.

Will be removing himself from the PLRTC after serving since 2000. Requested updated contact information to pass on to Ellis for recording purposes.

Legislative comments: N/A

Public Comments: N/A

Meeting dates 2018: April 4th, 2018, August 1st, December 5th West Square building, Room TBD

Adjourned: 11:20 am. Approved Geoghegan, Seconded Kasper

Recorded by Alan Anderson.